

There is a bus service between Hedd and Muharraq and also a few taxi cabs in the town. 494

In addition to the towns of Muharraq and Hedd the island of Muharraq is fringed by many villages ; going north round the coast from Muharraq town they include Busatin, Dair, Raiya, Galali and Arad. The first three villages contain many homes of members of the Ruling Family and are especially popular in the summer when the Muharraq weather is considered superior to that of Manama. Galali is a sizeable village inhabited by fishermen and industrial workers, while Arad is the centre of the agriculture of the island and is built near a large pool in the centre of the date gardens on Arad peninsular. The inhabitants of the village work in the gardens, but on the shores of the Bay near the old Omani fort is a large village built entirely of barastis. In the summer this temporary village is entirely filled with people from Muharraq who spend the nights here, crossing by ferry every day to Muharraq town. 361

In general Muharraq island is very low-lying, so much so that it was thought at one time that there was a danger of the sea affecting the efficiency of the Airport, but this has been removed by pumping stations around the field which remove, when necessary, surplus water from the runways. It was, however, found necessary to build a raised road from Muharraq town to Hedd, for when there was any rain or an exceptionally high tide the road was often blocked. 133 491

UMM ASH-SHAGAR ISLANDS AND UMM ASH-SHIYAIRA

These are the two islands that lie to the south of Hedd town; the former, to the north, is covered with small stone, and barasti houses; the second, whose name is a diminutive of the first, contains only barastis and is inhabited by fishermen. 361 101

THE ISLANDS

In addition to these two, there are several other small islands south of Muharraq, of which the three largest, although none of them is more than a few hundred square yards in area, are Halat-as-Suluta, Halat-al-Khulaifat and Abu Mahur.

The first two islands lie to the south of Arad peninsular and at low tide they are joined by a sand-bar which permits walking between them. They contain small villages, whose people derive their livelihood from fishing, and they are lucky enough to have on them fresh water springs. Abu Mahur, the third and largest island, is in fact named after one of the largest of these springs, which is in the sea, a short distance from the shore. The fort of Abu Mahur is now in ruins but the island is now used as a quarantine station. 361 226

The fresh water submarine springs south of Muharraq and the manner in which the people obtain water from them has astounded 312

TRAFFIC

● 494
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Traffic regulations in Bahrain are much the same as those in force in England and the United States; there is a left hand rule of the road and the speed limit in built up areas is 20 m.p.h. Special care should be taken when driving through towns and villages in Bahrain for in common with other parts of the Arab world pedestrians consider the roads as well as the pavements as their property and behave accordingly. Donkey and cycle riders should also be treated with caution for they are apt to be rather reckless. In case of accidents the Bahrain State Police must be notified immediately, failure to do so is likely to involve the drivers in unnecessary trouble.

To drive in Bahrain it is necessary to hold a valid Bahrain driving licence. These are obtainable at the Traffic Department, Bahrain Police Fort, Manama, at a cost of Rs. 5 p.a. Holders of valid licences of countries adhering to the International Traffic Convention, which include England, the U.S.A. and France and most other countries, will be granted a Bahrain licence on production of their own one. In other cases, drivers are required to take out provisional licences, and after a period of one month may apply at the Traffic Office for a driving test. The usual regulations concerning passengers apply to learner drivers.

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All owners of cars and motor cycles in Bahrain are required to register them annually or semi-annually at the Traffic Office. The fee for a car is Rs. 50 per annum, for motor cycles Rs. 12—8 per annum, both fees can be paid in one or two instalments. Failure to register or re-register cars or motor cycles is liable to involve their owners in pecuniary loss.

For further information about Bahrain traffic laws, car owners are advised to contact the Traffic Office, Bahrain Police Fort, Manama, or phone Manama 334.

BANKS

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There are at present two banks in Bahrain:

The British Bank of the Middle East, Prior Road, Manama;
The Eastern Bank, Government Road, Manama.

These banks provide the usual facilities and arrange for such matters as foreign currency and the transference of drafts. In addition, there are in Manama and Muharraq a number of money changers who deal in most of the commoner forms of currency and who are willing to change money. Most shops will also oblige in this matter, particularly if offered dollars, but care should be taken that a reasonable rate of exchange is given.

LIQUOR

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Bahrain is a Moslem country and is therefore "dry," but non-Moslem residents have been granted the privilege of being permitted

TRAFFIC BRANCH

(Report by Superintendent J. Hyde, Officer-in-charge of the Traffic Section)

363 Vehicles. During the year 1372¹ there was a 32.8 per cent. increase over the previous year
164 in the registration of motor vehicles, bringing the total to 2,822, at the end of the year.

632 Accidents. There was an increase in road accidents. The total for the year was 142,
27.9 per cent. more than in 1371. Unfortunately, there were ten fatalities as compared with
672 four for the previous year, the highest since 1364. The number of persons seriously injured was
29, an increase of 20.

Thirty-nine pedestrians were involved, three more than in the previous year. Of these,
12 were children of 15 years or under. There were three fatalities with children, including a
girl aged 3 years. The only other female casualty was a child aged 6 years, who was injured.

One hundred and fifteen of the total accidents occurred during the day, the remainder, 27,
were during the hours of darkness.

Of the fatal accidents, three occurred on the Awal Road, one at night. One near Manama
Bus Station, one behind the West Primary School, Manama, one near Ahmed's Ice Factory,
Manama, one near Muharraq Petrol Station (during darkness), one inside the R.A.F. Camp
and one on the Sitra Causeway.

Eight cases were taken to Court. In three cases, the drivers were found not to blame.

One case is still pending.

Five motor-cycles, 11 pedal cycles and six donkey carts were involved in accidents during
the year.

Fifty-five cases were prosecuted in the Courts as a result of accidents. In ten cases the
persons were acquitted.

363 Traffic Offences. One hundred and twenty-eight traffic offences were taken to the Courts.
681 The total fines amounted to Rs. 19,896/-. In four cases the offenders were sentenced to terms
of imprisonment.

Thirty-two driving licences were suspended for various traffic offences.

PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES

494 Taxi Cabs and Buses. There was a considerable increase in the number of these vehicles,
especially taxi cabs.

It becomes more difficult each year to provide stands for taxi cabs, and it will soon be
necessary to restrict their number.

Arrangements are in hand to fit all taxi cabs with fare meters.

Driving Tests. One thousand three hundred and fifty-four driving tests were carried out
during the year. Five hundred and twenty-three passed the required standard.

2 [A.D. 1952-1953 - - - 12/1/53]

The number of applications for driving licences increase each year. At present no less than fifty tests are taken each week. 494

Non-Traffic Offences. Sixteen persons were prosecuted in both Courts for non-traffic offences. These included four liquor offences, one of being in possession of hashish, and two cases of criminal Breach of Trust, etc. 674

Prison sentences and fines amounting to Rs. 2,525/- were imposed. The total fines in both Courts for all types of offences amounted to Rs. 22,421/-.

Traffic Section Strength. The Traffic Section Strength is one British Superintendent, three Arab Sub-Inspectors (the one temporarily attached), three N.C.O's and 41 men. 494

Superintendent Hyde was absent on U.K. leave from 10th June, 1953, till 2nd September, 1953.

Six traffic posts are maintained during daylight at Manama and Muharraq.

Transport. One Land Rover, seven motor cycles and two pedal cycles are allotted to the Traffic Department.

Traffic Department Revenue. Cash receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 125,928/1/-.

REGISTRATION RETURNS—1953

	1951	1952
TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN BAHRAIN	2,124	2,822
New vehicles registered during year	421	778
Private motor cars	941	1,231
Taxi Cars	145	212
Private Buses	77	78
Taxi Buses	82	100
Private Lorries	293	390
Taxi Lorries	120	205
Pick-ups	204	274
Other Vehicles (Cranes, Tractors, Road Rollers, etc.)	103	144
Motor Cycles	139	188
Vehicles notified as "EXPORTED"	106	43
Vehicles notified as "IMPORTED"	119	202
Vehicles scrapped (by Police or by owners)	112	17
Pedal Cycles in Bahrain (Registered)	4,690	5,278

DRIVING LICENCES AND TESTS

Number of Driving Licences issued during year	738
Number of Driving Tests during year	1,354
Number of Successful Applicants	523
Number of Failures	831
Number of Driving Licences issued on Production of Foreign Licence	215

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CASH RECEIPTS RETURN-1972 ¹/₁

						Rs.	As.
TRANSFER FEES	..	..	..	..	..	686	—
TAXATION FEES	..	..	..	..	..	89,606	1
NUMBER PLATES	..	..	..	..	..	2,397	—
LICENCE HOLDERS	..	..	..	..	..	663	8
DRIVING LICENCES	..	..	..	..	..	14,525	—
LICENCE BOOKS	..	..	..	..	..	1,922	—
TAXI BADGES	..	..	..	..	..	75	—
DRIVING TESTS—Fee	..	..	..	..	..	6,650	—
LICENCE LATE FEES	..	..	..	..	..	235	8
PEDAL CYCLE TAX	..	..	..	..	..	1,697	—
HIRE OF "L" PLATES	..	..	..	..	..	99	—
LEARNERS LICENCE PERMITS	..	..	..	..	..	1,063	8
REGISTRATION LATE FEES	..	..	..	..	..	2,512	—
REGISTRATION INFORMATI	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
PUBLIC CONVEYANCE LICENCE	..	..	..	..	..	865	—
TAXI DRIVERS LICENCES	..	..	..	..	..	833	8
TRADERS LICENCES	..	..	..	..	..	2,175	—
Total					Rs.	1,25,929	1

OIL INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

(Report by Mr. G. B. Thompson, Government Oil Inspector)

382 The Refinery throughput of Bahrain Crude Oil remained about the same as the previous
 439 year, but the total Refinery throughput, including both Bahrain Crude Oil and Imported
 505 Foreign Crude Oil, increased from 9,254,140 Long Tons in 1952, to a figure of 9,654,390 Long
 Tons in 1953. The actual figures being:

Bahrain Crude Oil	..	..	1,480,638 Long Tons
Imported Foreign Crude Oil	..	..	8,173,751 Long Tons

There was a slight drop in the number of ship cargo inspections carried out:

1952	..	178 Ships, 476 Parcels, 1,741,861 Long Tons
1953	..	170 Ships, 463 Parcels, 1,628,045 Long Tons

The term "Imported Foreign Crude Oil" has been used in place of the term "Arabian Crude Oil," used in previous years, the change having been made to allow inclusion of two shipments of Sumatran Crude made late in 1953, which were successfully processed through the Refinery.

Graphs showing the Refinery throughput and the Ship Inspection figures for the last five years are included.

2/11/53 1102 53--Halipil 2/11/53 1102 53--Halipil